

F O C U S

NEWSLETTER FOR THE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

CANADIANA

JAN 24 1995

Making a Difference in the County of Parkland

November is Family Violence Prevention Month and exciting things are happening across the province. Here's a look at how the County of Parkland's Healthy Families Association plans to take its message to the people of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and the County of Parkland.

This is the fourth year an extensive initiative around Family Violence Prevention Month takes place in the County of Parkland. Organizers have set the stage for a comprehensive campaign designed to encourage all Parkland residents to look at *their* role in creating healthy families by preventing family violence. This effort is guided by Parkland Healthy Families Association – a group of representatives from local agencies and community representatives.

A general theme has been identified for this year's Family Violence Prevention Month and will echo across the province during the month of November. The theme deals with community and personal involvement.

Specific initiatives in Parkland include a series of articles in the weekly newspaper, a tele-poll, displays in shopping malls and other public places, and presentations to groups like service clubs.

The highlight of the campaign is a forum hosted by CFRN TV's Susan Amerongen and her husband Clayton Hennig who is a reporter with CHQT Radio. A panel of experts including professionals and former abusers will address the question: "Why does he do it?" A similar forum was held last year. Lorraine Louth, a spokesperson for Parkland Healthy Families Association comments, "Many hurting people came out last year. What they heard made it feel safe for them to come forward."

"The philosophy behind what we are doing is simple," comments Louth, "we have identified our goal: strong, healthy families. Then we look for ways of achieving it. We realize we are working with people. We as people get scared and feel threatened and defensive when we hear angry messages, so we keep our messages positive and always focused on our goal. People can choose to change. There is hope to reduce family violence."



Individuals and communities are working together to prevent family violence

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Making a difference... *continued from page 1*

In addition to the community awareness campaign, Parkland Healthy Families Association is organizing two workshops. One, set for Nov. 26th, will involve clergy, lay people from area churches, interested community members, and representatives from local agencies. The focus of the day will be strengthening families through understanding family violence and the development of a more coordinated community response to family violence.

The second workshop, to be held Dec. 8th, targets workers from area agencies and schools. It will also provide basic information and encourage a more coordinated agency response to family violence.

The County of Parkland has taken a fresh look at the issues surrounding family violence. They asked what the community could do to reduce incidents of family violence. New, less traditional ways of reaching the community were sought. They were

mindful of communicating messages that made both victims and offenders feel safe and supported – not condemned. They wondered what the results would be if local resource agencies pulled together with members of the community to form a strong network committed to prevent family violence; that's how the Parkland Healthy Families Association was formed.

New Workshop Brings Professionals Together to Discuss Family Violence Prevention

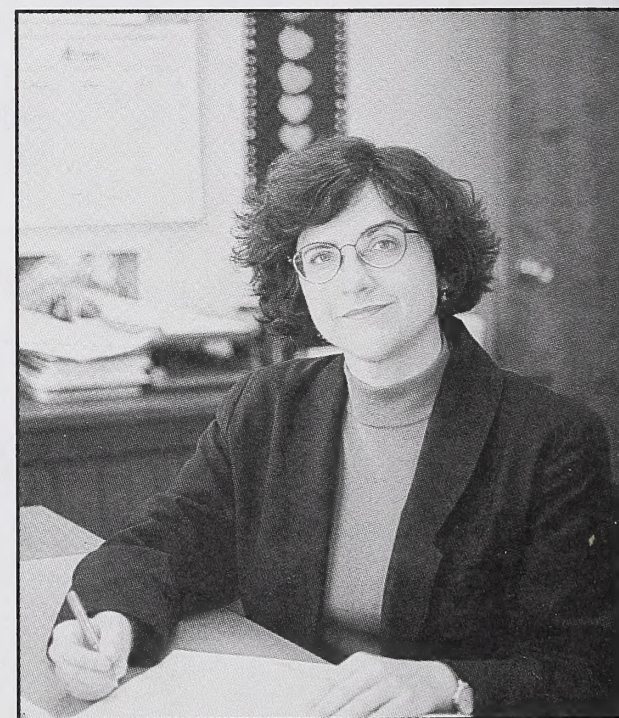
John is a school teacher. He has been teaching for three years. This year he is facing a problem he has never dealt with before. He suspects that one of his students is a victim of family violence. John doesn't know what to do.

Terry is a nurse at a walk-in medical clinic. She is noticing that Mrs. Jones, who is a senior, is often bruised when she comes to the clinic. She is also withdrawn emotionally. Should Terry ask Mrs. Jones about her private life, refer her to a social worker, or talk to her family? Where does Terry's role as a nurse end?

Sandy is an out-reach coordinator at a church. She oversees a food-hamper program. She knows that the husband of one of the families she deals with is abusive toward his wife. What can Sandy do? What should she do?

The three scenarios above illustrate how difficult it is to deal with issues of family violence. If you confront when it's not appropriate, you may aggravate a situation. If you do nothing, lives may be at risk.

An inter-departmental committee with representation from the departments of Education, Family and Social Services, Health, Justice, Municipal Affairs, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), and the Alberta Women's Secretariat identified a need for training for professionals who are likely to deal with people caught in the web of family violence. The committee presented the Federal Government with a proposal to develop a Multi-disciplinary Family Violence Training Project – a workshop to help professionals deal with family



Janet Pavlic, Project Manager

violence issues. The Federal Government agreed to fund the project.

Janet Pavlic from the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence is the manager of this three phase project.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Video Collection Grows

To continue its work in the areas of public education and professional training, the National Clearinghouse has added five new videos to the joint Health Canada/National Film Board (NFB) collection of family violence prevention films and videos. They are:

Right from the Start – a video on dating for teens. Produced by the Victoria Women's Transition House it is a part of an educational package designed to help teens recognize dating abuse and confront unacceptable attitudes and behaviour.

Without Fear – a video about violence against women, produced by the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. This video is designed to raise public awareness

about the extent of violence against women in Canadian society.

No Small Matter – a video drama about wife abuse performed in Punjabi with English subtitles. It is produced by the People's Law School – The Public Legal Education Society of British Columbia. In this video, a woman who is abused by her husband seeks help from her extended family.

Discovering the Child Within – a video and workbook on the abuse of pregnant women and their children. The video is produced by Women in Crisis (Northumberland County) of Ontario. It documents the experience of women who have been abused

during pregnancy, focusing on how the violence affected each woman, her fetus, her family, and the professionals involved.

In Our Defence – a video about women and violence, produced by The Image Works Inc. of Edmonton. Three women in their early twenties are caught up in unsatisfactory relationships with men. Through their dramatized stories and statements from counsellors, police, and legal experts, viewers gain a fresh perspective on Canadian society and the Canadian law.

The videos can be rented from NFB regional offices and partner libraries across Canada.

New workshop...continued from page 2

Phase one, which is completed and being implemented, provides an overview of family violence prevention. The remaining two phases will be ready in March '95. These will deal with child abuse and wife abuse. A Train the Trainer module is also being developed.

"With the first phase of the project, we aim to create a consistent understanding among professionals of the core characteristics of family violence," says Pavlic. She adds, "we also want to see professionals develop greater skills in identifying and applying strategies for support

and referral of victims of abuse whom they may encounter in their work. This includes effective collaboration with other professionals."

The project also aims to:

- enhance understanding of the dynamics of abuse of the most common victims in families, that is, women and children;
- increase ability to effectively identify possible victims of abuse; and
- impart a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of key professionals who are addressing the problem at the community level.

"We need to understand that behaviour can change. There is hope. The exciting part of this project is that it equips front-line professionals to become instrumental in preventing family violence," says Pavlic.

The implementation of phase one is still in its infancy. Two highly successful pilot workshops have been held in Edmonton and Stony Plain. Sites and times for future workshops are now under consideration. If you are interested in participating in, or hosting a workshop, contact Janet Pavlic at 422-5916-phone • 427-2039-fax.

DID YOU KNOW?

Clearinghouse Makes Key Resources Available

A Resource Guide on Family Violence Issues for Aboriginal Communities, an information kit compiled by David McTimoney, outlines a framework for Aboriginal community development. Based on an integrated healing model, this resource guide includes proposed activities and an inventory of resources to assist communities in defining and responding to local needs.

Violence in Aboriginal Communities, a paper by Emma D. LaRocque. (Reprinted with permission from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.) It provides a valuable discussion of family violence as it affects Aboriginal women, teenagers, and children. Particular attention is paid to sexual violence.

Breaking the Pattern: How Communities Can Help is a manual adapted by the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence with permission of the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence of Alberta. It describes a process for building community responses to family violence.

From Victim to Survivor: A Group Treatment Model for Women Survivors of Incest – a manual by Brenda J. Saxe et al. It outlines a group treatment program for female incest survivors developed by the Family Service Centre of Ottawa-Carlton. It is geared to mental health professionals who wish to either begin group treatment programs or acquire new ideas for established groups.

Opening the Door: A Treatment Model for Therapy with Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse is a manual prepared by Adrienne Crowder, Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region, to assist clinicians who work with, or intend to work with, male survivors of sexual abuse.

Four Variations of Family Violence: A Review of Sociological Research – a document prepared by Walter DeKeseredy of Carlton University. This report provides a brief review of the North American sociological literature on violence against husbands, sibling abuse, parent abuse, and parental violence toward adolescents. It will be useful to front-line workers, and researchers interested in learning more about other forms of family violence.

Wife Assault: The findings of a National Survey – a statistical analysis by Karen Rogers of data collected in the 1993 Canadian Survey on Violence Against Women. This report provides reliable estimates of the nature and extent of male violence against women in Canada and a snapshot of police intervention and use of social service agencies.

Spousal Homicide is a Juristat prepared by Margo Wilson and Martin Daly. Using data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, it examines patterns in spousal homicide in Canada between 1974 and 1992.

Criminal Justice Processing of Sexual Assault Cases is also a Juristat. It is authored by Julian V. Roberts. It examines statistical data on how sexual assault and physical assault cases are dealt with in the criminal justice system.

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Fax: (613) 941-8930
TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) users dial (613) 952-6396 or 1-800-561-5643.

"Take time

*You can make a
difference*

*Prevent Family
Violence"*

*Family Violence
Prevention Month '94*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Northeast

St. Paul Crisis Association workers and the Northeast Region Family Violence Specialist will present information on family violence and its effects on children to the Westlock Child Care Society.

Northwest

The Mayor of *Grande Prairie* proclaimed Family Violence Prevention Month at a luncheon which also featured a giant display prepared by Visual Communications class of Grande Prairie Composite High School.

The *Whitecourt* shelter will facilitate two presentations in local schools on the shelter services.

Edmonton

The Family Violence Prevention Planning Committee of *Fort Saskatchewan* sponsored a two day Train the Trainers workshop in November as part of the community's collaborative approach to addressing family violence. This was a follow-up initiative to a two day conference the committee hosted in April.

Morinville FCSS recently offered family violence prevention training sessions to volunteers who will be answering calls on the community's new distress line.

Breton Victim Services Unit offered a family violence training session to new volunteers in November.

Central

A successful workshop on family violence was held at the Louis Bull Band in *Hobbema*.

The Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter in *Red Deer* now has an outreach worker dedicated to family violence prevention in Rimbey, Sundre, and Rocky Mountain House.

Calgary

Turn off the Violence, coordinated by Calgary's Action Committee Against Violence, was a campaign committed to raising awareness about the ways individuals and communities can work together to reduce family violence. The campaign was backed by a host of corporate and community sponsors and took place on November 3rd.

The Violent Toys Amnesty project gives citizens of *Calgary* an opportunity to dispose of violent toys, videos, and CDs. The project is sponsored by Child Friendly Calgary, Women's Emergency Shelter, and the Action Committee Against Violence.

South

Medicine Hat College, Division of Community Education and Program Development, coordinated a conference and tele-conference on breaking the cycle of violence. It was the first in a series and was designed to help educators, youth, professionals, and the community rekindle the spirit of hope.

Empowering Older Adults for a Safer Tomorrow was the title of a conference in *Medicine Hat* which looked at solutions for elder abuse and neglect.

**to fax back
your Focus
evaluations**

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WORD SEARCH



3 3286 50556 7152

Here's something for you to do in your spare time!

How to play: All the words listed appear in the puzzle - horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **circle their letters only**. Do not circle the word. The leftover letters spell the solution.

aid	help	refer
answer	hide	relief
	hint	respite
be a friend	honeymoon	
be responsible	hope	sad
best		safe places
	ideal	secret
calamity	information	secure
care		self esteem
change	key	share success
charm	know your	slip
comfort	rights	strain
community		support
resources	listen	
confidence		tact
cope	manage	talk it out
counselled	anger	teach
		training
don't	night	treatment
	no means no	try
education	no more	
	none	understanding
false	normal	
flowers	not easy	work together
		work it out
grow	pact	
	peace	
	point	
	praise	
	prevention	
	protects	

W	O	R	K	I	T	O	U	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	D	W	C	N
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F	E	V	O	O	I	N	D	E	L	L	E	S	N	U	O	C	E	D	B
M	R	A	H	C	H	G	B	E	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E

SOLUTION:

Prevent abuse, take time to get involved



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3,4, & 5, 1995, Lethbridge, Alberta
HELPING & HEALING – RESPONDING
TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Contact:

Southern Alberta Sexual Assault Centre
c/o Lethbridge Family Services
1107-2A Ave. North
Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 0E6
Tel: (403) 327-6570

FOCUS is a quarterly publication of the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence. Submissions for the future issues, especially news about the community activities, are welcome. To put your name on the mailing list or for additional copies, contact the Office. Address all correspondence to:

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